

Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge
Route 1, Box 76
Jet, Oklahoma 73749
580/626-4794
580/626-4793 Fax

<http://southwest.fws.gov>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
<http://www.fws.gov>

For Information on the
National Wildlife Refuge System
1 800/344 WILD

Cover Tree Sparrow photograph by James C. Leupold

October 2003



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Salt Plains

National Wildlife Refuge

Birds



Birding at Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge

Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge, located in north-central Oklahoma in Alfalfa County, was established in 1930 as a breeding ground and feeding area for migratory birds, primarily waterfowl.

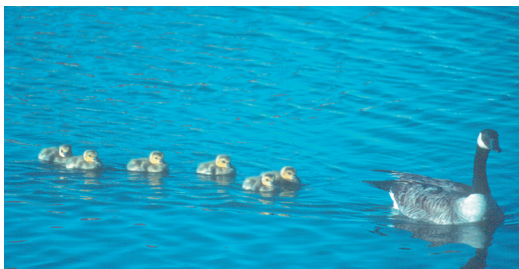
Of the 32,030 acres encompassed by the Refuge, approximately 11,000 acres are salt flats, 10,000 acres impoundment, and 11,000 acres upland. The uplands are predominantly native grasslands with a substantial acreage of brushlands, woodlands, and invading salt cedar. This includes 1,200 acres of crop fields planted to wheat and cowpeas for waterfowl. In addition, a system of small fresh water ponds and marshes have been constructed as a part of the waterfowl and shorebird management programs. This diversity of habitat, created through management and protection accounts for the abundance and variety of birds found on Salt Plains.



Snowy Egrets
FWS Photograph

This list contains 312 species which have been observed on the refuge since 1930. Species are listed in accordance with the seventh edition (1998) A.O.U. checklist.

You are requested to report sightings of birds not on our checklist or if listed as rare or accidental. Sightings may be reported to the Refuge Manager, Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge, Rt. 1, Box 76, Jet, OK 73749.



Canada Goose Family
Photograph by Rod Krey/FWS

Occurrence

Symbols used in this list are as follows:

- Sp Spring March - May
- S Summer June - August
- F Fall September - November
- W Winter December - February

Abundance



Eastern Bluebird
FWS Photograph

- A Abundant
A common species that is very numerous.
- C Common
Certain to be seen in suitable habitats.
- U Uncommon
Present, not certain to be seen.
- O Occasional
Seen few times during the season
- R Rare
Unusual, 1 to 5 years.
- * Nesting Species

*Italics =Federal Threatened or
Endangered Status*



Pintails in the Winter
Photograph by Wyman Meinzer/FWS Photo

| Common Name | Sp | Su | F | W |
|-------------------------------------|------------|----|---|---|
| Loons | | | | |
| ___Common Loon | r | | r | r |
| Grebes | | | | |
| ___*Pied-billed Grebe | c | o | c | o |
| ___Horned Grebe | r | | r | r |
| ___*Eared Grebe | u | r | u | |
| ___Western Grebe | r | | r | r |
| Pelicans | | | | |
| ___American White Pelican | a | u | a | o |
| ___Brown Pelican | accidental | | | |
| Cormorants | | | | |
| ___*Double-crested Cormorant | c | u | c | o |
| ___Neotropic Cormorant | r | r | | |
| Darters | | | | |
| ___Anhinga | accidental | | | |
| Frigatebirds | | | | |
| ___Magnificent Frigatebird | accidental | | | |
| Herons, Bitterns, and Allies | | | | |
| ___American Bittern | u | o | u | r |
| ___*Least Bittern | o | o | o | |
| ___*Great Blue Heron | c | c | c | c |
| ___*Great Egret | c | u | c | |
| ___*Snowy Egret | c | c | c | |
| ___*Little Blue Heron | c | c | c | |
| ___*Tricolored Heron | o | o | | |
| ___*Cattle Egret | a | a | c | |
| ___*Green Heron | c | u | c | |
| ___*Black-crowned Night-Heron* | u | u | u | |
| ___Yellow-crowned Night-Heron | o | o | o | |
| Ibises and Spoonbills | | | | |
| ___White Ibis | accidental | | | |
| ___*White-faced Ibis | c | c | o | |
| ___*Glossy Ibis | o | o | | |
| ___White-faced Ibis x Glossy Ibis | o | o | | |
| ___Roseate Spoonbill | accidental | | | |
| Storks | | | | |
| ___Wood Stork | accidental | | | |
| American Vultures | | | | |
| ___Black Vulture | accidental | | | |
| ___*Turkey Vulture | c | c | c | |
| Ducks, Geese, and Swans | | | | |
| ___Black-bellied Whistling Duck | accidental | | | |
| ___Greater White-fronted Goose | c | | c | u |
| ___Snow Goose | u | | c | c |
| ___Ross' Goose | r | | r | r |
| ___*Canada Goose | a | u | a | a |
| ___Brant | accidental | | | |
| ___Barnacle Goose | accidental | | | |
| ___Trumpeter Swan | accidental | | | |
| ___Tundra Swan | r | | r | o |

| Common Name | Sp | Su | F | W |
|---------------------------------------|------------|----|---|---|
| ___ *Wood Duck | c | c | c | |
| ___ *Gadwall | a | o | a | c |
| ___ *American Wigeon | a | o | a | c |
| ___ American Black Duck | r | r | r | r |
| ___ *Mallard | a | u | a | a |
| ___ *Blue-winged Teal | a | o | a | u |
| ___ Cinnamon Teal | r | r | r | r |
| ___ *Northern Shoveler | a | o | a | u |
| ___ *Northern Pintail | a | o | a | u |
| ___ Green-winged Teal | a | r | a | u |
| ___ Canvasback | u | | u | o |
| ___ *Redhead | a | r | u | o |
| ___ Ring-necked Duck | c | | u | o |
| ___ Greater Scaup | r | | | r |
| ___ Lesser Scaup | c | r | u | o |
| ___ Long-tailed Duck | | | r | r |
| ___ Bufflehead | c | | c | o |
| ___ Common Goldeneye | u | | u | c |
| ___ Surf Scoter | accidental | | | |
| ___ *Hooded Merganser | u | u | u | u |
| ___ Common Merganser | c | | c | a |
| ___ Red-breasted Merganser | r | | r | r |
| ___ Ruddy Duck | c | r | c | o |
| Hawks, Kites, and Eagles | | | | |
| ___ Osprey | o | | o | |
| ___ *Mississippi Kite | c | c | c | |
| ___ <i>Bald Eagle</i> | c | | c | c |
| ___ Northern Harrier | c | | c | c |
| ___ Sharp-shinned Hawk | u | | u | u |
| ___ *Cooper's Hawk | u | o | u | u |
| ___ Northern Goshawk | | | r | r |
| ___ *Red-shouldered Hawk | r | r | r | r |
| ___ Broad-winged Hawk | r | | r | |
| ___ *Swainson's Hawk | c | u | c | r |
| ___ *Red-tailed Hawk | c | u | c | c |
| ___ Ferruginous Hawk | r | | r | r |
| ___ Rough-legged Hawk | o | | o | u |
| ___ Golden Eagle | o | | o | o |
| Caracaras and Falcons | | | | |
| ___ Crested Caracara | accidental | | | |
| ___ *American Kestrel | c | o | c | c |
| ___ Merlin | r | | r | r |
| ___ Peregrine Falcon | r | r | r | r |
| ___ Prairie Falcon | o | r | o | o |
| Pheasants, Grouse, and Turkeys | | | | |
| ___ *Ring-necked Pheasant | c | c | c | c |
| ___ *Wild Turkey | a | u | a | a |
| New World Quail | | | | |
| ___ *Northern Bobwhite | c | c | c | c |

| Common Name | Sp | Su | F | W |
|------------------------------------|------------|----|---|---|
| Rails, Gallinules, and Coots | | | | |
| ___*Black Rail | r | r | r | |
| ___*King Rail | u | o | u | |
| ___*Virginia Rail | o | r | o | |
| ___Sora | u | r | u | |
| ___*Common Moorhen | r | r | r | |
| ___*American Coot | a | u | a | u |
| Cranes | | | | |
| ___Sandhill Crane | a | | a | r |
| ___Whooping Crane | r | | o | |
| Plovers | | | | |
| ___Black-bellied Plover | u | o | u | |
| ___American Golden-Plover | o | | r | |
| ___*Snowy Plover | a | a | a | |
| ___Semipalmated Plover | u | | u | |
| ___Piping Plover | r | | | |
| ___*Killdeer | c | c | c | o |
| ___Mountain Plover | accidental | | | |
| Oystercatchers | | | | |
| ___American Oystercatcher | accidental | | | |
| Stilts and Avocets | | | | |
| ___*Black-necked Stilt | r | u | r | |
| ___*American Avocet | a | a | a | |
| Sandpipers, Phalaropes, and Allies | | | | |
| ___Greater Yellowlegs | c | c | c | r |
| ___Lesser Yellowlegs | c | o | c | r |
| ___Solitary Sandpiper | o | o | o | |
| ___Willet | c | c | c | |
| ___Spotted Sandpiper | c | c | c | |
| ___Upland Sandpiper | u | u | u | |
| ___Whimbrel | r | | r | |
| ___Long-billed Curlew | o | | o | |
| ___Hudsonian Godwit | u | r | r | |
| ___Marbled Godwit | o | r | r | |
| ___Ruddy Turnstone | o | | o | |
| ___Red Knot | accidental | | | |
| ___Sanderling | o | | o | |
| ___Semipalmated Sandpiper | a | c | a | |
| ___Western Sandpiper | a | u | a | |
| ___Least Sandpiper | a | u | a | |
| ___White-rumped Sandpiper | c | u | r | |
| ___Baird's Sandpiper | a | u | u | |
| ___Pectoral Sandpiper | u | u | u | |
| ___Dunlin | o | | o | |
| ___Stilt Sandpiper | c | u | c | |
| ___Buff-breasted Sandpiper | r | | | |
| ___Long-billed Dowitcher | c | c | c | |
| ___Short-billed Dowitcher | o | o | o | |
| ___Wilson's Snipe | u | | u | o |

| Common Name | Sp | Su | F | W |
|--|--------------|----|---|---|
| ___American Woodcock | r | | r | r |
| ___Wilson's Phalarope | c | c | c | |
| ___Red-necked Phalarope | r | r | r | |
| Skuas, Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers | | | | |
| ___Parasitic Jaeger | accidental | | | |
| ___Laughing Gull | accidental | | | |
| ___Franklin's Gull | a | u | a | |
| ___Bonaparte's Gull | r | | r | r |
| ___Ring-billed Gull | c | u | c | a |
| ___Herring Gull | u | o | u | u |
| ___Glaucous Gull | r | | | r |
| ___Sabine's Gull | | r | o | |
| ___Black-legged Kittiwake | accidental | | | |
| ___Caspian Tern | r | r | r | |
| ___Common Tern | o | o | o | |
| ___Roseate Tern | hypothetical | | | |
| ___Forster's Tern | u | o | u | |
| ___ <i>*Least Tern</i> | c | c | c | |
| ___Black Tern | c | u | c | |
| Pigeons and Doves | | | | |
| ___Rock Pigeon | u | u | u | u |
| ___ <i>*Mourning Dove</i> | c | c | a | r |
| Cuckoos, Roadrunners, and Allies | | | | |
| ___Black-billed Cuckoo | r | r | | |
| ___ <i>*Yellow-billed Cuckoo</i> | c | c | c | |
| ___ <i>*Greater Roadrunner</i> | o | o | o | o |
| Barn Owls | | | | |
| ___ <i>*Barn Owl</i> | o | o | o | o |
| Typical Owls | | | | |
| ___ <i>*Eastern Screech-Owl</i> | o | o | o | o |
| ___ <i>*Great Horned Owl</i> | c | c | c | c |
| ___Snowy Owl | r | | | r |
| ___Burrowing Owl | r | r | r | |
| ___ <i>*Barred Owl</i> | u | u | u | u |
| ___Long-eared Owl | r | | r | r |
| ___Short-eared Owl | r | | r | o |
| Goatsuckers | | | | |
| ___ <i>*Common Nighthawk</i> | c | c | c | |
| ___ <i>*Chuck-will's-widow</i> | c | c | o | |
| Swifts | | | | |
| ___ <i>*Chimney Swift</i> | c | c | c | |
| Hummingbirds | | | | |
| ___Ruby-throated Hummingbird | o | o | o | |
| Kingfishers | | | | |
| ___ <i>*Belted Kingfisher</i> | c | c | c | c |
| Woodpeckers | | | | |
| ___ <i>*Red-headed Woodpecker</i> | c | c | c | r |
| ___ <i>*Red-bellied Woodpecker</i> | c | c | c | c |
| ___Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | r | | r | r |
| ___Ladder-backed Woodpecker | accidental | | | |

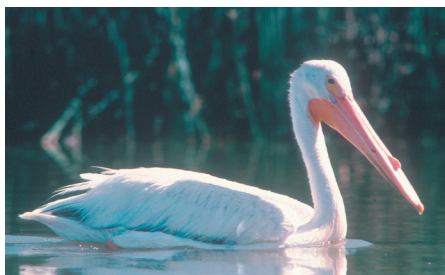
| Common Name | Sp | Su | F | W |
|-------------------------------|------------|----|---|---|
| ___*Downy Woodpecker | c | u | c | c |
| ___*Hairy Woodpecker | u | u | u | u |
| ___*Northern Flicker | c | c | c | c |
| ___Pileated Woodpecker | r | r | r | r |
| Tyrant Flycatchers | | | | |
| ___Olive-sided Flycatcher | | | r | |
| ___Eastern Wood-Pewee | o | u | o | |
| ___Yellow-bellied Flycatcher | o | | | |
| ___Least Flycatcher | u | | | |
| ___*Eastern Phoebe | u | u | u | |
| ___Say's Phoebe | | | | r |
| ___*Great Crested Flycatcher | c | c | c | |
| ___*Western Kingbird | c | c | c | |
| ___*Eastern Kingbird | c | c | c | |
| ___*Scissor-tailed Flycatcher | c | a | u | |
| Shrikes | | | | |
| ___*Loggerhead Shrike | c | u | c | c |
| ___Northern Shrike | | | | r |
| Vireos | | | | |
| ___White-eyed Vireo | o | r | r | |
| ___*Bell's Vireo | c | c | c | |
| ___Blue-headed Vireo | r | | | |
| ___Yellow-throated Vireo | accidental | | | |
| ___*Warbling Vireo | c | c | c | |
| ___Philadelphia Vireo | r | | | |
| ___*Red-eyed Vireo | u | u | u | |
| Crows and Jays | | | | |
| ___*Blue Jay | c | c | c | c |
| ___*American Crow | c | c | c | c |
| Larks | | | | |
| ___*Horned Lark | c | o | c | c |
| Swallows | | | | |
| ___Purple Martin | o | o | o | |
| ___*Tree Swallow | c | | u | |
| ___*N. Rough-winged Swallow | a | o | c | |
| ___*Bank Swallow | c | o | c | |
| ___*Cliff Swallow | c | u | c | |
| ___*Barn Swallow | a | c | c | |
| Chickadees and Titmice | | | | |
| ___*Carolina Chickadee | c | c | c | c |
| ___*Tufted Titmouse | c | c | c | c |
| Nuthatches | | | | |
| ___Red-breasted Nuthatch | r | | r | r |
| ___White-breasted Nuthatch | r | | r | r |
| Creepers | | | | |
| ___Brown Creeper | u | | u | u |
| Wrens | | | | |
| ___Rock Wren | | | r | |
| ___*Carolina Wren | c | c | c | u |
| ___*Bewick's Wren | u | u | u | u |

| Common Name | Sp | Su | F | W |
|-----------------------------------|------------|----|---|---|
| ___ *House Wren | c | u | c | r |
| ___ Winter Wren | o | | o | o |
| ___ Sedge Wren | u | | u | o |
| ___ Marsh Wren | u | | u | o |
| Kinglets | | | | |
| ___ Golden-crowned Kinglet | o | | o | u |
| ___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet | u | | u | o |
| Gnatcatchers | | | | |
| ___ *Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | c | a | c | |
| Thrushes | | | | |
| ___ *Eastern Bluebird | c | u | c | u |
| ___ Mountain Bluebird | r | | | |
| ___ Townsend's Solitaire | | | | r |
| ___ Swainson's Thrush | c | | o | |
| ___ Hermit Thrush | r | | | r |
| ___ Wood Thrush | r | r | | |
| ___ *American Robin | c | c | c | c |
| Mockingbirds and Thrashers | | | | |
| ___ *Gray Catbird | c | c | c | r |
| ___ *Northern Mockingbird | u | u | u | o |
| ___ Sage Thrasher | | | | r |
| ___ *Brown Thrasher | c | c | c | u |
| Starlings | | | | |
| ___ *European Starling | c | c | c | c |
| Pipits | | | | |
| ___ American Pipit | r | | o | r |
| ___ Sprague's Pipit | r | | | |
| Waxwings | | | | |
| ___ Bohemian Waxwing | accidental | | | |
| ___ Cedar Waxwing | u | | u | u |
| Wood-warblers | | | | |
| ___ Golden-winged Warbler | accidental | | | |
| ___ Tennessee Warbler | u | | | |
| ___ Orange-crowned Warbler | c | | u | |
| ___ Nashville Warbler | u | | u | |
| ___ Northern Parula | r | | | |
| ___ *Yellow Warbler | c | u | u | |
| ___ Chestnut-sided Warbler | r | | | |
| ___ Magnolia Warbler | r | | | |
| ___ Black-throated Blue Warbler | accidental | | | |
| ___ Yellow-rumped Warbler | c | | c | c |
| ___ Black-throated Green Warbler | r | | r | |
| ___ Blackburnian Warbler | r | | | |
| ___ Yellow-throated Warbler | r | | | |
| ___ Blackpoll Warbler | r | | | |
| ___ Black-and-white Warbler | u | r | o | |
| ___ American Redstart | o | | r | |
| ___ *Prothonotary Warbler | u | u | | |
| ___ Swainson's Warbler | accidental | | | |
| ___ Ovenbird | r | | | |

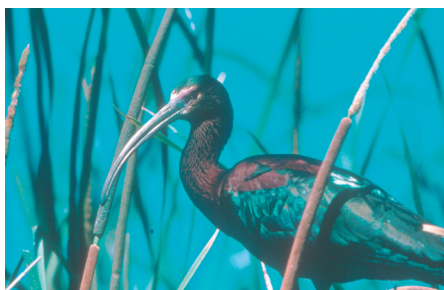
| Common Name | Sp | Su | F | W |
|-------------------------------|------------|----|---|---|
| ___Northern Waterthrush | o | | | |
| ___Louisiana Waterthrush | r | r | | |
| ___Kentucky Warbler | r | r | | |
| ___Mourning Warbler | r | | | |
| ___*Common Yellowthroat | c | c | c | r |
| ___Hooded Warbler | accidental | | | |
| ___Wilson's Warbler | r | | r | |
| ___Yellow-breasted Chat | u | u | | |
| Tanagers | | | | |
| ___Summer Tanager | | r | r | |
| ___Scarlet Tanager | r | | | |
| Sparrows | | | | |
| ___Spotted Towhee | c | | c | c |
| ___Cassin's Sparrow | r | | | |
| ___American Tree Sparrow | a | | a | a |
| ___*Chipping Sparrow | c | o | c | r |
| ___Clay-colored Sparrow | o | | o | |
| ___*Field Sparrow | c | c | c | c |
| ___Vesper Sparrow | c | | c | r |
| ___*Lark Sparrow | c | c | c | r |
| ___Lark Bunting | r | | | |
| ___Savannah Sparrow | u | | u | o |
| ___*Grasshopper Sparrow | c | u | c | |
| ___Henslow Sparrow | r | | | |
| ___Le Conte's Sparrow | r | | | o |
| ___Fox Sparrow | o | | | o |
| ___Song Sparrow | c | | c | c |
| ___Lincoln's Sparrow | o | | o | o |
| ___Swamp Sparrow | o | | o | o |
| ___White-throated Sparrow | u | | u | u |
| ___Harris' Sparrow | a | | a | a |
| ___White-crowned Sparrow | c | | c | c |
| ___Dark-eyed Junco | a | | a | a |
| ___Lapland Longspur | r | | | r |
| ___Smith's Longspur | | | r | r |
| ___Chestnut-collared Longspur | r | | | |
| ___Snow Bunting | accidental | | | |
| Cardinals and Allies | | | | |
| ___*Northern Cardinal | c | c | c | c |
| ___Rose-breasted Grosbeak | o | o | | |
| ___Black-headed Grosbeak | r | | | |
| ___*Blue Grosbeak | o | u | o | |
| ___Lazuli Bunting | r | | | |
| ___*Indigo Bunting | c | c | c | |
| ___*Painted Bunting | u | u | o | |
| ___*Dickcissel | c | c | c | |
| Blackbirds | | | | |
| ___Bobolink | r | | | |
| ___*Red-winged Blackbird | a | c | a | a |
| ___*Eastern Meadowlark | c | c | c | c |

| Common Name | Sp | Su | F | W |
|-----------------------------|----|------------|---|---|
| ___ *Western Meadowlark | u | u | c | c |
| ___ Yellow-headed Blackbird | c | r | u | r |
| ___ Rusty Blackbird | r | | r | r |
| ___ Brewer's Blackbird | o | | o | o |
| ___ *Common Grackle | c | c | c | o |
| ___ Great-tailed Grackle | u | u | | o |
| ___ *Brown-headed Cowbird | c | c | c | c |
| ___ *Orchard Oriole | c | u | r | |
| ___ *"Northern" Oriole | c | c | u | |
| ___ Baltimore (mostly pure) | c | c | u | |
| ___ Bullock's (+hybrids) | o | o | o | |
| Finches | | | | |
| ___ Purple Finch | r | | r | r |
| ___ House Finch | u | u | u | u |
| ___ Red Crossbill | | | r | |
| ___ Pine Siskin | o | | o | o |
| ___ *American Goldfinch | c | u | c | c |
| ___ Evening Grosbeak | | accidental | | |
| Old World Sparrows | | | | |
| ___ *House Sparrow | c | c | c | c |

Please Reuse or Return to Visitor Center



American White
Pelican
FWS Photograph



White-faced Ibis
FWS Photograph